25 pages

Confidential

Collection No. 54/46

Years 1946-47

Subject: Report of the press Conference held by Dr Rajendra prasad at Kumara park on 9th and 10th may 1947

CONFIDENTIAL.

Collection No. 54-4-48

Year 1946 —1947

CB.

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Confidential Branch.

SUBJECT

Report of the Bread Conference held by Rt. Rajendra Prasad at Kennan Park on 9th and 10th Jan 1947.

PREVIOUS REFERENCES.

LATER REFERENCES.

4947/CP

CB

PRESS CONFERENCE given by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member to the Government of India, at the Kumara Park, at 11-55 a.m. on Saturday, 9th May 1947.

* * *

Dr. Rajendra Prasad:--

For the mail.
Dewan) WP 13/5

The food situation in Mysore is more or less the same as in other parts of the country. We had good rice crops in most parts of the country. But wheat crop had suffered very bad damage on account of pest over large areas from the Nizam's Dominions up to the Himalayas covering the intermediate places of the Central Provinces and Indian States like Gwalior, Bhopal, Indore, Dewas as well as some districts of U. P. This has caused a heavy loss of wheat. Though it is not possible for me to give exact figures, the loss will be in the order of 1½ to 2 million tons. Therefore the position in regard to wheat has become very difficult within the last six weeks or so. We were hoping that, when the crop appeared in the earlier part of the season, we would have a bumper crop but this disease to the crop has spoiled the whole thing just when the crop was nearing harvest, and we now find ourselves in great difficulty. Last year also we had the same kind of difficulty, because both the wheat crop and paddy crop had suffered, but we were prepared from the very beginning to meet the situation which would arise on account of loss of both the crops. But this year with a good paddy crop we were hoping that things would settle down. Unfortunately at the last moment all our calculations have been belied and we find ourselves face to face with a situation which is very difficult. I do not wish to create panic as that would do good to no one. But I must give the situation as it is.

Seen by the Dewan WP 13/5

Confe. B.

Last year we were able to get through the crisis because both the people and the Governments concerned acted jointly and with determination. They were also prepared for the crisis; and so we were able to meet the crisis. This year we were not prepared because we did not know that the crisis was coming. We have to get ready within the time that lies between now and the crisis. It is a very short interval. The critical months will be from July onwards till October or November as during the last year. Our imports also are not coming as much and as quickly as we would like them to come. We were expecting about 400,000 tons of rice from Burma, but I am afraid we shall not get that much. There will be a short fall of 100,000 tons, if not more. We are trying to get wheat and other grains from all the other countries of the world. Practically there is no country with which we have not started some negotiation to get supply of some grain or other. Wheat comes mostly from Canada, Australia, United States and Argentina. We did not get any ~~what~~ wheat from Argentina last year. It is from other countries we got the allocation last year. I do not know what they will give us this year because there has been nothing settled yet as to the quantity of wheat they should give us or its prices. But we have got allocation of grains including wheat and we are trying to move them to our country as soon as possible. As these imports come in, they are distributed all over the country.

The system that the Government of India has adopted is this. We know what we are expecting each month by way of imports, because we get advice of shipments and shipments take five to six weeks to reach India. We know also what is being procured within the country. Almost every month we have meetings to which we invite representatives of Provinces and the States. We know what is available, that is to say what is coming from outside and what is available within the country and we know also the demand from various parts.

Mr. A. NANJUNDA RAO. - How much do you expect to get within the next two months?

THE HON'BLE MEMBER - Well, we have been given 900,000 tons of allocations of all foodgrains other than ~~wheat~~ rice. But I do not know how much wheat will be coming really. Perhaps I could give exact figures if I look into papers. I think it would be something like about 100,000 tons a month.

MR. A. NANJUNDA RAO:- This includes wheat also?

THE HON'BLE MEMBER: - Yes, including wheat.

There was a wheat conference - World wheat conference - to which we had sent our representatives and we hoped we would be able to fix up there, the quantity of wheat that they would be able to give us for the next four or five years and also the prices at which we could get them. But that Conference has failed and we have not been able to get any foreign contract indicating the quantity of wheat that we can get or the prices at which we can get it. So we are now left to go about roaming from country to country in search of food and to get whatever we can; and our people are doing that. At present our representatives are trying to get from all the countries all the world over, whatever they can. This is the position.

(At this stage, the Hon'ble Member referred to certain ~~xx~~ statistical statements and said that imports of food-grains other than rice was in the order of 120,000 tons in some months, 140,000 tons in some months, and 102,000 tons in certain other months, so that the average imports could be taken to be on an average ~~about~~ above 100,000 tons a month.)

The 900,000 tons is the total allocation for India up to end of June. This does not include rice. We have got a separate figure for rice. But this is an uncertain quantity because we do not know from where to get it. They have said we can get it.

ascertain the prices at which it will give it to us. The price may suit us but it may not suit them or some other countries may be in a better position than we are to take over larger quantities.

MR. KRISHNASWAMI:- Allocation of 900,000 tons is up to June. How much have you got so far?

THE HON'BLE MEMBER:- That figure is in addition to rice. We have up to end of April received in all 838,000 tons including 182,000 tons of rice. As regards rice we ought to have got 400,000 tons up to June. But up to now we have got only182,000 tons and there is going to be a big deficit in rice.

MR. KRISHNASWAMI:- There is a Washington report saying that no rice has been allotted for India.

(After reading the newspaper report)

As I told you we were given an allocation of just a little over 400,000 tons. Most of it was to come from Burma - i.e. something like 386,000 tons of rice, and only a small quantity of about 16 ~~to~~ 17 thousand tons was to come from South East Asia countries. Out of this allocation we have been able to get only 182,000 tons and if we get another 100,000 tons in May and June it means only 282,000 tons. There will be therefore still a deficit of 120,000 tons.

This news (referring to the paper) is bad news. The question of rice for the second half of the year is now under consideration and if there is foundation for the news that there is no rice allotted to us for the second half, then the position becomes still more difficult. In the first half we were given about 400,000 tons. Even against that,

we have a deficit of 120,000 tons and that is on the assumption that we get further shipments in May and June. I do not know whether we will be given any further allocation. But we were expecting further allocation, though not as much allocation as we received in the first half and our representatives there are expected to press for as large an allocation as we got in the first half.

In reply to a question regarding cereals, the Hon'ble Member said:- That there was hardly any jawar in the country. Jawar crop also had suffered. Apart from wheat, we are getting other grains like barely, maize and milo (somewhat like red Jawar) from other countries.

To a question as to how he proposes to meet the abnormal situation arising in view of this deficit, the Hon: Member said: We have to take the thing into consideration and see what we can do. It is really very bad. It do not know what I can do except to ask the people to be ready to face the present situation. But we can distribute what we have, as economically and as fairly as possible. There is a demand for removal of control from some places. But with this difficulty I do not know what we can do in a situation like this.

MR. SESHAPPA: There is agitation in certain parts that controls must be removed. What is your opinion?

THE HON: MEMBER:- It is not a question of opinion. We have to face the situation. We know what we require much more than what we have got. The only way to meet the situation is to distribute what we have got, as fairly as we can amongst our people. That is control. Control means nothing else.

MR. NANJUNDA RAO: You have had an opportunity of studying our methods of rationing about which there are different

The Hon: Member: - I have heard only one opinion and that is that the existing method of rationing is good. I do not know whether there is any other opinion. (Laughter). I studied the question only with the help of these friends. (Friends) If there is another opinio let me hear about it. So far as I can judge from the system of accounting, I find that all that was quite satisfactorv. But any system however good it may be, does not always yield the best results because its application is not always as satisfactory as the system itself. I therefore want to know whether you are satisfied with the administration of the system.

MR. NANJUNDA RAO: After all it is a bad situation. We have to face it. They are doing their best. That is all that can be said.

HON. MEMBER: That is all that you can expect also, (Laughter)

Mr.GHOUSE MOHIYUDDIN: Mysore State was the first to introduce rationing and during the crisis, officials here who were entrusted with the distribution work have taken great care and pains to avert the crisis and they have done so much that the people are very grateful to them. Even now they are doing their best and we hope that with your kind patronage and help this situation may well be met.

HON. MEMBER: I am very glad to hear that from you because I am encouraging you to tell me something which may not be relished by Government. (Laughter)

I think your procurement system is good. Quite good, because you have had this advantage that you have the revenue officials in each village who have worked for a long time. Accounts practically of every individual cultivator are kept - how much land he has, what is grown on that land, what the expected yield is out of that land, what is consumed by him and his family, and it is only the surplus that is taken away by the Government. I do not know whether we have got anything like this in our parts because there the revenue system is different. Where Zamindari System prevails in the Provinces, no proper system of village accounts exists at all. The Zamindar collects the rent from the ryots and remits whatever is due from him to Government so that the actual cultivator has no touch with the Government at all. The Zamindar fixes his rent in cash and

whether the tenant grows his crop or his crops fail the Zamindar gets his rent and the Government gets the agreed amount from the Zamindar so that there is really no direct contact between the cultivator and the Govern= ment. And during this period of crisis it has not been possible therefore for these permanently settled Provinces to set up an organization which can cope with such a big deficit. But I understand from friends in Madras and Bombay where they have a revenue system prevailing similar to that in Mysore, that they have been able to get fairly accurate information about the production as well as about the requirements of the people and so they have been able to manage fairly well.

MR.GHOUSE MOHIYUDDIN: The procurement system is going on very well and it is like a search-warrant. It is working satisfactorily in our State.

HON. MEMBER: If it is working satisfactorily that is all right.

X X X

MR.RAM DORAI (Indian Express): After Food I would like to invite your attention to certain other questions. Your attention might have been drawn to recent developments in Travancore and the declaration made by Sir C.P.Ramaswami Iyer about the future of Indian States after June 1948. Is it within the jurisdiction of the Constituent Assembly to counteract such moves and to present a united Hindustan for the country?

HON. MEMBER: What is your question? Is it whether it is within the power of the Constituent Assembly? The function of the Constituent Assembly is to draw up a Constitution and it is trying to do that. It will

draft a Constitution for all those who agree to join it. If they agree to come in and join, the constitution will be available to them.

MR.RAM DORAI: Supposing there is a clash between the people and the Princes .....

HON. MEMBER: Such differences, if any, must be settled between the people and the Princes separately.

MR.NANJUNDA RAO: Recently we have a rather mischievous reports from London that certain States like Travancore, Kashmir, Bhopal and Hyderabad would try to remain as independent sovereign States attached to the British Commonwealth. Do political trends bear out this suggestion?

HON. MEMBER: I cannot tell you anything about that. I am not concerned with it, either. But personally, I do not think it would be wise for the States to do so. It would not be wise either for the British Government to have anything to do with an arrangement like that.

With reference to a recent report that the Muslim League would summon a Constituent Assembly for those parts which did not join the present Constituent Assembly, and to a question whether it was possible that some States which are inclined towards the League side may join that Constituent Assembly, the Hon. Member said: It is for them to take whatever side they want. As regards the possibility, you can judge of it, as well as another person.

MR.RAM DORAI: Our ideal is for linguistic units. As far as the Kannada portion is concerned, the people speaking Kannada are in Mysore State and are scattered

in Bombay and Madras Provinces and in Hyderabad, and other small States, perhaps in the proportion of fifty-fifty, more or less. On what basis can you envisage the possibility of clubbing them into one unit?

HON. MEMBER: It is possible for them to be in one Unit, if the people all want it. There is nothing inherently impossible about it. It all depends upon the people; if they want to join in one unit they can do it.

MR.KRISHNA SHARMA (Viswakarnataka): But the practical difficulty is whether these people in British Indian Provinces will agree to come under a Ruler and so on.

HON. MEMBER: That also depends upon them. It is not for us to decide. It is really for the States people and the people of the Provinces to decide among themselves as to how they will join and whether they will join a separate linguistic area.

MR.KRISHNA SHARMA: The point was that the Kannada portion of the territory was divided between States and Provinces. Both would like to join. The difficulty is in the procedure, - how to combine the States as well as people from the Provinces. Is there no constitutional possibility?

HON. MEMBER: The position at the present moment is this. We recognize the States; and they are there. Now it is for the States including the Rulers and the people to put themselves together and settle their affairs and if they can settle their own affairs to join with British India we will be happy. If they want to be out of British India, - Well, you have to accept that. That is the position now. We from British India at the present moment cannot think of forcing the people of the States

or of British India to join one another. It is for them to decide and if they decide in favour of joining, we shall be happy.

MR.KRISHNA SHARMA: Has there been any move to plan a different procedure whereby the Kannada portion of the States and the Kannada portion of the Provinces can come without surrendering their sovereignty and so on?

HON. MEMBER: We have not yet reached that stage in our Constitution. That stage may come; and it will come a little later. Then it will be time for the representatives to decide how best to tackle and solve this problem. We are anxious to get all the States in to the Constituent Assembly as soon as possible.

HON'BLE DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD'S PROGRAMME IN BANGALORE.

9th May 1947	8.30 to 10 a.m.	Visit Hassargatta Fruit Research Station.
	10 a.m. to 12 noon	Discussion with Mysore State Officials (Food and Grow-more-Food) at Kumara Park.
	3 to 4 p.m.	Visit Hebbal (Serum Institute)
	4 to 6 p.m.	Visit Indian Institute of Science.
10th May 1947.	8-30 to 10 a.m.	Visit Imperial Dairy Institute.
	10 to 11 a.m.	Workers' Meeting in Congress Office.
	11-30 a.m. to 12 noon	Press Conference at Kumara Park
	4 to 40-30 p.m.	Visit Hindi Vidyalaya, Basavangudi.
	4-45 to 6 p.m.	Visit Khadi Exhibition.
	6-30 p.m.	Public Meeting.
		function at Cantonment.
11th May 1947.	8-30 to 10 a.m.	Visit Occupational Institute.
	10 a.m. to 12 noon.	Interviews.
	~~(Afternoon)~~ Night	Leave Bangalore for Madras by Rail train.
		(Visit (on route to Aerodrome) Journalists' Association.)?

C. F. 74.]

13

Routine Notes.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

SUBMITTED.-

A report of the Press Conference held by Dr.Rajendra Prasad at Kumara Park on 10th May 1948 is submitted herewith.

9/5

9/5/48.

N.B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.

PRESS CONFERENCE given by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member to the Government of India, at the Kumara Park, at 11-55 a.m. on Saturday, 9th May 1947.

Dr.Rajendra Prasad:-

The food situation in Mysore is more or less the same as in other parts of the country and we had good rice crops in most parts of the country and wheat crop had suffered very bad damage on account of pest over big areas from the Nizam's dominions up to the Himalayas covering the intermediate places of the Central Provinces and Indian States like Gwalior, Bhopal, Indore, Dewas and some districts of U.P. This has caused a heavy loss of wheat and it is not possible for me to give exact figures. There will be a loss of wheat and the loss of will be in the order of 1½ to 2 million tons. Therefore the position in regard to wheat has become very difficult within the last six weeks or so. This development has taken place only during the last six weeks. We were hoping that when the crop as it appeared in the earlier part of the season, we would have a bumper crop but this disease to the crop has spoiled the whole thing just when the crop was nearing harvest, and we now find ourselves in great difficulty. Last year also we had the same kind of difficulty because both the wheat crop and paddy crop had suffered, but we were prepared from the very beginning to meet the situation which would arise on account of loss of both the crops. But this year with a good paddy crop we were hoping that things would settle down; but, unfortunately at the last moment all our calculations have been belied and we found overselves face to

I do not wish to create panick that would do good to no one. But I must give the situation as it is.

Last year we were able to get ~~from~~ through the crisis because both the people and the Governments concerned both acted jointly and both acted with determination. They were also prepared for the crisis, and so we were able to meet the crisis. This year ~~we~~ we were not prepared because we did not know that the crisis was coming, and We have to get ready within the time that lies between now and the crisis. It is a very short ~~time and the crisis itself must come within the months which lie head from July onwards.~~ This year ~~also the most difficult months will be from July to~~ October or November. Our imports also are not coming as much and as quickly as we would like them to come. We were expecting about 400,000 tons of rice from Burma, but I am afraid we shall not get that much. There will be a short fall of 100,000 tons, if not more. We are trying to get wheat and other grains from all the other countries of the world. Practically there is no country with which we have not started some negotiation to get some supply of some grain or other. Wheat comes mostly from Canada, Australia, United States and Argentina. We did not get any wheat from Argentina last year. It is from other countries we got the allocation last year. ~~I~~ I do not know what they will give us this year because there has been nothing settled as yet as to the quantity of wheat they should give us. But we have got allocation ~~of all other~~ ~~XXXXXXXXX~~ grains including wheat and we are trying to move them to our country as soon as possible. As these imports come, they are distributed all over the country.

The system ~~of~~ that the Government of India has adopted is this. We know what we are expecting in this month because these ~~ships~~ ships take a pretty long time. ~~They~~ take ~~six months~~ to five weeks. When the ships have been loaded and when they are started we know that we will get them and so we can expect them in a month or six weeks or even in two months how much we can get and we know also what is being procured in the country. Almost every month we have meetings to which we invite representatives of Provinces and the States. We know what is available, that is to say what is coming from outside and what is available within the country and we know also the demand from various parts.

Mr.A.NANJUNDA RAO.- How much do you expect to get within the next two months?

DR.RAJENDRA PRASAD:- Well, we have been given 900,000 tons of allocations of all foodgrains other than wheat. But I do not know how much wheat will be coming really. ~~Thexxxxxxx~~ Perhaps I could give exact figures if I look into papers. I think it would be something like about 100,000 tons a month.

MR.A.NANJUNDA RAO:- This includes wheat also?

DR.RAJENDRA PRASAD:- Yes, including wheat.

There was a wheat conference - World wheat conference - to which we had sent our representatives and we hoped we would be able to fix up there, the quantity of wheat that they would be able to give us for the next four or five years and also the prices at which we would get them. But that Conference has failed and we have not been able to get any foreign contract ~~about~~ the quantity of wheat that we can get or in regard to prices.

about roaming from country to country in search of food and to get whatever we can and our people are doing that. At present our representatives are trying to get from all the countries all the world over, whatever they can. That is the position.

At this stage the speaker referred to his papers and gave out that imports received of foodgrains other than rice was in the order of 120,000 tons in some months, 140,000 tons in some months, 102,000 tons in some months, so that he could state that the average imports could be taken on an average to be about 100,000 tons a month.

The 900,000 tons was the total allocation for India up to end of June. This does not include rice. We have got a separate figure for rice. But this is an uncertain quantity because we do now know from where to get. They have said we can get. But we have to find a country that will give it to us and the price at which it will give us. The price may suit us but may not suit them or some other countries may be in a better position to take more than us.

MR.KRISHNASWAMI:- Allocation of 900,000 tons is up to June. How much have you got so far?

DR.PRASAD:- That figure is in addition to rice. We have up to now up to end of April in all 838,000 tons including 182,000 tons of rice, i.e., about 600,000 tons of other foodgrains. As regards rice we ought to have got 400,000 tons up to June. But up to now we have got only 182,000 tons and there is going to be a big deficit in rice.

MR.KRISHNASWAMI:- There is a Washington report saying that no rice has been allotted for India.

(After reading the newspaper report ~~fully~~)

As I told you we were given an allocation of just a little over 400,000 tons. Most of it was to come from Burma---Something like 386,000 tons of rice and only a small quantity about 16 to 17 thousand tons from South East Asia countries. Out of this allocation we have been able to get only 182,000 tons and if get another 100,000 tons in May and June it means only 282,000 tons. There will be therefore still a deficit of 120,000 tons. This news/is (referring to the paper) a bad news. The question of rice for the second half of the year is now under consideration and if there is foundation for the news that there is no rice allotted to us for the second half, then the position becomes still more difficult. In the first half we were given about 400,000 tons. Even in that we have deficit of ~~100~~ 120,000 tons and that is on the assumption that we ~~would~~ get further allocation. I do not know whether we will be given any further allocation. But we were expecting further allocation, though not as much allocation as we received in the ~~fix~~ first half and our representatives there are expected to press ~~them~~ for as large as an allocation as we got in the first half.

In reply to a question regarding cereals ~~(Mrx~~ Doctor Prasad said:- As regards cereals, there is hardly any jawar in the country. Because this crop also had suffered; ~~We are getting~~ Apart from wheat, other grains ~~like Mylu something like your Jola~~. We are getting some barely , maize and ~~Mylu~~ from South American countries.

To a question as to how he proposes to meet the abnormal situation arising in view of this report

DR. Prasad said: We have to take the hing into consideration and see what we can do. It is really very bad. I do now know what I can do expect to ask the people to be ready to face the present situation. But we can distribute what we have as economically as possible. There is a demand for removal of control from some places. But with this difficulty I do not know what we can do in a matter like this.

MR.SESHAPPA: There is agitation in certain parts that controls must be removed. What is your opinion?

DR.PRASAD: It is not a question of opinion. We have to face the situation. We know that we require much more than what we have got. The only way to meet the situation is to distribute what we have got, as fairly as we can amongst our people. That is control. Control means nothing else.

MR.NANJUNDA RAO: You have had an opportunity of studying our methods of rationing about which there are different opinions.

DR.RAJENDRA PRASAD: I have heard only one opinion and that is that the rationing is good.. I do not know whether there is any other opinion (Laughter). I studied only with the help of these friends. If there is another opinion let me hear about it. So far as I can judge from the system of accounting I find that all that was quite satisfactory. But any system however good it may be, does not always yield the best results because its application is not always as satisfactory as the system itself. I therefore want to know whether you are satisffed with the administration of the system

MR.NANJUNDA RAO: After all it is a bad situation. We

have to face it. They are doing their best . That is all it can be said.

DR.PRASAD: That is all that you can expect also. (Laughter)

MR.GHOUSE MOHIYUDDIN: Mysore State was the first to introduce rationing and during the crisis, officials here who were entrusted with the distribution work have taken great care and pains to avert the crisis and they have done so much that the people are very much grateful to them and even now they are doing their best and we hope that with your kind patronage and help this situation may well be met.

DR.PRASAD: I am very glad to hear that from you because I am encouraging you to tell me something which may not be relished by Government. (daughter)

I think your procrement system is good. Quite good, because you have had this advantage that you have the revenue officials in each village who have worked for a long time and accounts practically of every individual cultivator are kept — How much land he has, what is grown on the land, what is consumed by them and what is expected to yield out of that and the surplus taken away by the Government. I do not know whether we have got anything like this in our parts because there the revenue system is not like this. Where Zamindari prevails in the Provinces, no proper system of village accounts exist at all. It is the business of the Zamindar to get the rent and the Government collects the rent so that the cultivator will have no touch with the Government at all. Because the Zamindar fixes his rent in cash to the Government and whether the tenant grows his crop or fails, the Zamindar get his rent and the Government gets the agreed amount from the Zamin-

so that there is really no touch directly between the grower and the Government. And during this period of crisis it has not been possible for these permanently settled Provinces to set up an organization which can cope with such a big deficit. But I understand from friends in Madras and Bombay where they have similar revenue system prevailing that they have been able to get accurate information about the production and also about the requirements of the people and so they will be able to manage fairly well.

MR.GHOUSE MOHIYUDDIN: The procurement system is going on very well and it is like search-warrant. It is working satisfactorily in our State.

DR PRASAD: If it is working satisfactorily that is alright.

x x x x

MR.RAM DORAI (Indian Express): After Food I would like to invite your attention to subsidiary questions. Your attention might have been drawn to recent developments in Travancore and the declaration made by Sir C.P.Ramaswami Iyer about the future of Indian States after June 1948. Is it within the jurisdiction of the Constituent Assembly to counteract such moves and to present a united Hindustan for the country?

DR.PRASAD: What is your question? Is it whether it is within the power of the Constituent Assembly? The function of the Constituent Assembly is to draw up a Constitution and it is trying to do that. It will draft a Constitution for all those who agree to join it and if they are to join and agree to come in, the constitution will be available to them.

MR.RAM DORAI: Supposing there is a clash between the people and the Princes....

DR.PRASAD: That much be settled between the people and the Princes separately.

MR.NANJUNDA RAO: Recently we have a rather mischievous reports from London that certain States like Travancore, Kashmir, Bhopal and Hyderabad would try to remain as independent sovereign States attached to the Commonwealth. Do the political trends bear out this suggestion?

DR.PRASAD: I cannot tell you anything about that. I am not concerned with either. But personally, I do not think it would be wise for the States. It would not be wise either for the British Government to have anything to do with an arrangement like that.

To a question that there was a report recently that the Muslim League would summon a Constituent Assembly for those parts which did not join the present Constituent Assembly - is it possible that some States which are inclined towards the League side may join that Constituent Assembly, Dr.Rajendra Prasaid: I do not think which side they will take. It is for them to take whatever side they want. As regards the possibility, you can take the possibility you can find.

MR.RAM DORAI: Our ideal is linguistic units. As far as the Kannada portion is concerned they are all peoples scattered in Bombay, Madras Presidencies and Hyderabad and Mysore and other small States in the proportion of fifty-fifty more or less. On what basis can you envisage the possibility of clubbing them into one unit?

DR.PRASAD: It is possible if the people all want it. There is nothing inherently impossible about all this.

It all depends upon the people;if they want to join in one unit they can do it.

MR.KRISHNA SHARMA (Viswakarnataka): But the practical difficulty is whether these people in British Indian Provinces will agree to come under a ruler and so on.

DR.PRASAD: That also depends upon them. It is not for us to decide. it is really for the States people and the people of the Provinces to decide among themselves as to how they will join and whether they will join a separate linguistic area.

MR.KRISHNA SHARMA: The point was that the Kannada portion of the territory was divided between States and Provinces. Both would like to join. The difficulty is in the procedure,how to combine the States as well as people from the Provinces. Is there no constitutional possibility?

DR.PRASAD: The position at the present moment is this. We recognize the States;and they are there. Now it is for the States including the Rulers and the people to put themselves together and settle their affairs and if they can settle their own affairs to join with British India we will be happy. If they want to get out of British India,- Well, you have to accept that. That is the position now. We from British India at the present moment cannot think of forcing the people of the States or of British India to join one another. It is for them to decide and if they decide in favour of joining we shall be happy.

MR.KRISHNA SHARMA: Has there been any move to plan a different procedure whereby the Kannada portion of the States and the Kannada portion of the Provinces can come without surrendering their sovereignty, & so on?

DR.PRASAD: We have not yet reached that stage in our Constitution. That stage may come; and it will come a little later, and then it will be time for the representatives to decide how best to tackle and solve this problem. We are anxious to get all these States in the Constituent Assembly as soon as possible.